



Rep. Tom Emmer withdraws bid for House speaker hours after winning GOP nomination

By L. MASCARO, S. GROVES,
F. AMIRI and K. FREKING

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Republican Tom Emmer abruptly abandoned his bid to become House speaker Tuesday, withdrawing hours after winning the internal party nomination once it became clear he would not have enough support from GOP colleagues for the gavel. Emmer, the GOP Whip, reversed course after Donald Trump objected to his nomination and hardliners in the House denied the party leader the votes he would need.

He is the third Republican to fall short, leaving dejected Republicans no closer to resolving the chaos they have created since ousting Kevin McCarthy at the start of the month.

Emmer briskly left the building where he had been meeting privately with Republicans, and hopped into a waiting SUV. He said nothing in response to shouted questions as they drove off from the Capitol complex.

Trump, speaking as he left the courtroom in New York where he faces business fraud charges, said his "un-endorsement" must have had an impact on Emmer's bid.

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House Majority Whip Rep. Tom Emmer, R-Minn., followed by reporters, leaves the Republican caucus meeting at the Capitol in Washington, Tuesday, Oct. 24, 2023, after withdrawing as Republican nominee for House speaker, becoming the third candidate to fall short.

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Rep. Tom Emmer withdraws bid for House speaker hours after winning GOP nomination

Continued from Front

"He wasn't MAGA," said Trump, the party's front-runner for the 2024 presidential election, referring to his Make America Great Again campaign slogan.

For three weeks the House has been thrown into turmoil, the Republicans now trying desperately to end the bitter infighting and choose a new speaker who can credibly unite the GOP majority, lead the party and get the U.S. Congress working again.

They prepared to return behind closed doors, where they spend much of their time, trying to agree on a new leader.

Attention quickly turned to Rep. Mike Johnson of Louisiana, a lower-ranking member of House GOP leadership, who was the second highest vote-getter on Tuesday's internal ballots. A lawyer specializing in constitutional issues, he had rallied Republicans around Trump's legal effort to overturn the 2020 election results.

"We're in the same cul-de-sac," said Rep. Scott Perry, R-Pa., the chairman of the far-right House Freedom Caucus.

Emmer of Minnesota, who is the party's third-ranking Republican as the GOP whip, had jumped out in front during private morning balloting among a hodgepodge list of mostly lesser-known congressmen aspiring to be speaker, a powerful position second in line to the presidency.

But no sooner did Emmer win the majority vote of his colleagues than his nomination was shot down by a powerful detractor he had tried to win over — Trump, who has long criticized the



Rep. Mike Johnson, R-La., vice chair of the House GOP Conference talks to reporters as he arrives to the Republican caucus meeting at the Capitol in Washington, Tuesday, Oct. 24, 2023.

Associated Press

party's former campaign chief as disloyal.

While Emmer won a simple majority in a roll call behind closed doors — 117 votes — he lost more than two dozen Republicans, leaving him far short of what will be needed during a House floor tally ahead.

Others piled on in what was, in some ways, a do-over of the Trump-Emmer feud that has simmered since January, when the former president's allies tried to stop Emmer's rise to the GOP whip's job.

"He doesn't have the support in the room right now," said Rep. Jim Banks, R-Ind., who had challenged Emmer at the start of the year. "We'll see where we go from here."

Coming in a steady second in the balloting was Johnson, who directly battled Emmer in the fifth round, picking up 97 votes. He then offered his full support to Emmer, saying, "What

we have to do in this room is unite and begin to govern again."

Others were eliminated during multiple rounds of voting, including Rep. Byron Donalds of Florida, a top Trump ally, and McDonald's franchise owner Rep. Kevin Hern of Oklahoma, a conservative leader who plied his colleagues with hamburgers seeking their support. Reps. Austin Scott of Georgia, Jack Bergman of Michigan, Pete Sessions of Texas, Gary Palmer of Alabama and Dan Meuser of Pennsylvania also dropped out.

Having rejected the top replacements, Majority Leader Steve Scalise and the Trump-backed Judiciary Chairman Jim Jordan, there is no longer any obvious choice for the job.

With Republicans controlling the House 221-212 over Democrats, any GOP nominee can afford just a few detractors to win the gavel.

"It's going to be another close race by the time we get to one," said Rep. Kelly Armstrong, R-N.D. "I think it would behoove whoever wins this to stay in the room and figure where they are at and whether they can get there."

Republicans have been flailing all month, unable to conduct routine business as they fight amongst themselves with daunting challenges ahead.

The federal government risks a shutdown in a matter of weeks if Congress fails to pass funding legislation by a Nov. 17 deadline to keep services and offices running. More immediately, President Joe Biden has asked Congress to provide \$105 billion in aid — to help Israel and Ukraine amid their wars and to shore up the U.S. border with Mexico. Federal aviation and farming programs face expiration without action.

Those running for speaker

were mostly conservatives and election deniers, who either voted against certifying the 2020 presidential election results, when Biden defeated Trump, in the runup to the Jan. 6, 2021, attack on the Capitol, or joined a subsequent lawsuit challenging the results.

Some Democrats had eyed Emmer, who had voted to certify the 2020 election results, as a potential partner in governing the House.

But Trump allies, including the influential hard-right instigator Steve Bannon, have been critical of Emmer. Some point to his support of a same-sex marriage initiative and perceived criticisms of the former president. Among the far-right groups pressuring lawmakers over the speaker's vote, some quickly attacked Emmer.

"That's a very divisive issue," said Republican Rep. Rick Allen of Georgia, saying he could never vote for Emmer because of his voting record on marriage.

Rep. Matt Gaetz of Florida, the hard-right leader who engineered McCarthy's ouster, has said several of those who were running — Hern, Donalds or Johnson — would make a "phenomenal" choice for speaker.

Nevertheless, Gaetz voted for Emmer, though others who joined in ousting McCarthy did not.

Many Emmer opponents were resisting a leader who voted for the budget deal that McCarthy struck with Biden earlier this year, which set federal spending levels that far-right Republicans don't agree with and now want to undo. They are pursuing steeper cuts to federal programs and services with next month's funding deadline. □

States sue Meta claiming its social platforms are addictive and harm children's mental health

By BARBARA ORTUTAY
AP Technology Writer

Dozens of US states, including California and New York, are suing Meta Platforms Inc. for harming young people and contributing to the youth mental health crisis by knowingly and deliberately designing features on Instagram and Facebook that addict children to its platforms.

A lawsuit filed by 33 states in federal court in California, claims that Meta routinely collects data on children under 13 without their parents' consent, in violation of federal law. In addition, nine attorneys general are filing lawsuits in their respective states, bringing the total number of states taking action to 41 and Washington, D.C.

"Meta has harnessed powerful and unprecedented technologies to entice, engage, and ultimately ensnare youth and teens. Its motive is profit, and in seeking to maximize its financial gains, Meta has repeatedly misled the public about the substantial dangers of its social media platforms," the complaint says. "It has concealed the ways in which these platforms exploit and manipulate its most vulnerable consumers: teenagers and children." The suits seek financial damages and restitution and an end to Meta's practices that are in violation of the law.

"Kids and teenagers are suffering from record levels of poor mental health and social media companies like Meta are to blame," said New York Attorney General Letitia James in a statement. "Meta has profited from children's pain by intentionally designing its platforms with manipulative features that make children addicted to their platforms while lowering their self-esteem." In a statement, Meta said it shares "the attorneys general's commitment to providing teens with safe, positive experiences online, and have already intro-



Attorney General Rob Bonta talks during a news conference in San Francisco, on Tuesday, Oct. 24, 2023.

Associated Press

duced over 30 tools to support teens and their families." "We're disappointed that instead of working productively with companies across the industry to create clear, age-appropriate standards for the many apps teens use, the attorneys general have chosen this path," the company added. The broad-ranging federal suit is the result of an investigation led by a bipartisan coalition of attorneys general from California, Florida, Kentucky, Massachusetts, Nebraska, New Jersey, Tennessee, and Vermont. It follows damning newspaper reports, first by The Wall Street Journal in the fall of 2021, based on the Meta's own research that found that the company knew about the harms Instagram can cause teenagers especially teen girls when it comes to mental health and body image issues. One internal study cited 13.5% of teen girls saying Instagram makes thoughts of suicide worse and 17% of teen girls saying it makes eating disorders worse.

Following the first reports, a consortium of news organizations, including The Associated Press, published their own findings based on leaked documents from whistleblower

Frances Haugen, who has testified before Congress and a British parliamentary committee about what she found. "Meta has been harming our children and teens, cultivating addiction to boost corporate profits," said California Attorney General Rob Bonta. "With today's lawsuit, we are drawing the line." The use of social media among teens is nearly universal in the U.S. and many other parts of the world. Almost all teens ages 13 to 17 in the U.S. report using a social media platform, with about a third saying they use social media "almost constantly," according to the Pew Research Center.

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Crews clear wreckage after 'super fog' near New Orleans causes highway crashes

By KEVIN MCGILL and SARA CLINE

Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS (AP) —

Crews worked into Tuesday morning clearing the wreckage of more than 150 vehicles involved in a series of crashes the day before on Interstate 55 near New Orleans caused by a "super fog" of marsh fire smoke and dense fog that killed at least seven people and injured another 25.

Lance Scott was among the many drivers caught in the wreckage. The 51-year-old had been driving his daughter to the airport when the fog thickened, as if a "white-out on a ski slope." He slammed on his brakes, narrowly, avoiding the cars in front of him but from behind he heard "the most horrendous clank of metal."

"It was, 'Bang. Bang. Bang.' It just went on... for probably 45 seconds," Scott said. "As every second went by the clanking of the metal got a little bit fainter, which told me it was backing up so I knew there was layers and layers of collisions."

Scott turned to his 24-year-old daughter, an intensive care unit nurse, and said to



In this aerial photo, responders are seen near wreckage in the aftermath of a multi-vehicle pileup on I-55 in Manchac, La., Monday, Oct. 23, 2023.

her, "There's going to be a lot of people who need help and I need you to go out and do what you do."

With the ominous sounds of crackling fire in the background and the fog slowly lifting to reveal the extent of the crash, Scott and his daughter helped people out of their cars, some of whom noticeably had bro-

ken collarbones and one had to wait for first responders to bring the Jaws of Life. An estimated 158 vehicles were involved in Monday morning's crashes, according to the Louisiana State Police, who warned Monday night the death toll could climb as first responders looked for victims, the smell of burnt wreckage still heavy in the air.

The crashes began before 9 a.m. Monday along a one-mile span of the elevated interstate, which passes over swamp and open water between Lake Pontchartrain and Lake Maurepas, Louisiana State Police Sgt. Kate Stegall said in a news briefing. Parts of the highway reopened Tuesday afternoon. The crashes left a long

Associated Press

stretch of mangled and scorched cars, trucks and tractor-trailers. Vehicles were crushed, piled atop each other and engulfed by flames. Some people got out of their vehicles and stood on the side of the road or on the roofs of their cars looking in disbelief at the disaster, while others cried out for help.

Scott said there was "great camaraderie" as people sprang into action to help others. With drivers warning others about a nearby fire from the crash, people moved away from the wreckage as they waited for 45 minutes for paramedics to reach them and for transportation off the bridge.

Clarencia Patterson Reed, 46, was driving to Manchac with her wife and niece and saw people waving for her to stop, but once she stopped, two other vehicles hit her car from behind and the side, she told The Associated Press.

Patterson Reed escaped from her side of the car, but her wife was pinned inside with an injured leg and side. Others stepped in to help, she said. □

A man fatally shot by police on Wisconsin school roof failed to enter the building, officials say

By TODD RICHMOND

Associated Press

A man killed by Wisconsin police was acting erratically at a car repair shop and in the parking lot of a suburban Milwaukee school and unsuccessfully tried to enter the building before climbing on its roof and exchanging gunfire with officers, authorities said Tuesday.

Dozens of students were in the building during the exchange of gunfire but none were hurt, officials said.

The incident began around 6:30 p.m. Monday when officers with the Germantown Police Department responded to a call of a

man acting "erratically" in Kennedy Middle School's parking lot and trying to enter the locked school, the Wisconsin Department of

Justice said. When officers arrived the man climbed onto the school's roof and fired at them.

Three officers returned fire,

killing the man, the statement said. As many as 70 students were in the school, which went into a lockdown. The students were later bused to an elementary school where they were reunited with family. "This is believed to be an isolated incident," the Justice Department's initial statement said late Monday, adding that there's no danger to the public. "All interactions with the subject occurred outside of the building."

In an updated statement Tuesday afternoon, the department said the man was driving a car with out-of-state license plates when it

broken down. He was at a repair shop when he began acting "erratically," walked away from the business and went to the school lot, where police confronted him.

The school district canceled all classes on Tuesday. The three officers who fired their weapons have been placed on administrative leave as per department policy.

The Justice Department is leading the investigation into the incident. The department's spokesperson, Gillian Drummond, declined to release the person's name or age on Tuesday. □



This screen shot from WISN-TV video shows law enforcement at Kennedy Middle School in Germantown, Wisconsin Monday, Oct. 23, 2023.

Associated Press

Israel vows again to destroy Hamas, rejecting calls for a cease-fire in Gaza

By EDITH M. LEDERER

Associated Press

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — Israel vowed again to destroy Hamas, rejecting calls from the U.N. chief, the Palestinians and many countries at a high-level U.N. meeting on Tuesday for a cease-fire and declaring that the war in Gaza is not only its war but “the war of the free world.”

Israel's Foreign Minister Eli Cohen also dismissed calls for “proportionality” in the country's response to Hamas' surprise attacks on Israel on Oct. 7 that killed 1,400 people and has since led to more than 5,700 Palestinian deaths in Gaza according to its Health Ministry.

“Tell me, what is a proportionate response for killing of babies, for rape (of) women and burn them, for beheading a child?” Cohen asked. “How can you agree to a cease-fire with someone who swore to kill and destroy your own existence?”

He told the U.N. Security Council that the proportionate response to the Oct. 7 massacre is “a total destruction to the last one of the Hamas,” calling the extremist group “the new Nazis.” He stressed: “It is not only Israel's right to destroy



The Emir of Qatar, Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani reacts during a meeting, in Astana, Kazakhstan, Thursday, Oct. 13, 2022.

Hamas. It's our duty.”

Cohen called the Oct. 7 attacks “a wake-up call for the entire free world” against extremism, and he urged “the civilized world to stand united behind Israel to defeat Hamas.”

And he warned that today it is Israel, and tomorrow Hamas and the attackers “will be at everyone's doorstep,” starting with the West. Cohen also accused Qatar of financing Hamas and said the fate of the

more than 200 hostages taken from Israel, some of whose families came to the U.N. meeting, was in the hands of its emir.

Palestinian Foreign Minister Riyad al-Maliki demanded an end to the Israeli attacks.

“We are here today to stop the killing, to stop ... the ongoing massacres being deliberately and systematically and savagely perpetrated by Israel, the occupying power, against the

Palestinian civilian population,” he said. “Over 2 million Palestinians are on a survival mission every day, every night.”

Under international law, he said “it is our collective human duty to stop them.”

Al-Maliki warned that more attacks and killings and weapons and alliances won't make Israel safer: “Only peace will.”

“For those actively engaged to avoid an even greater humanitarian ca-

tastrophe and regional spillover, it must be clear that this can only be achieved by putting an immediate end to the Israeli war launched against the Palestinian people in the Gaza Strip,” he said. “Stop the bloodshed.”

U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres opened the monthly meeting on the decades-old Israeli-Palestinian conflict which has turned into a major event with ministers from the war's key parties and a dozen other countries flying to New York warning that “the situation in the Middle East is growing more dire by the hour.”

As the council met, a barrage of Israeli airstrikes across the Gaza Strip crushed multiple residential buildings and buried families under rubble.

The U.N. chief said the risk of the Gaza war spreading through the region is increasing as societies splinter and tensions threaten to boil over. He called for an immediate humanitarian cease-fire to deliver desperately needed food, water, medicine and fuel. He also appealed “to all to pull back from the brink before the violence claims even more lives and spreads even farther.” □

Associated Press

Rio de Janeiro deploys helicopters in extra security after a criminal gang torches 35 buses

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP) — Authorities deployed helicopters and other extra security Tuesday in Rio de Janeiro after members of a criminal gang set fire to at least 35 buses in apparent retaliation for the police slaying of one of their key members. The attack late Monday on public transport buses took place in a western section of Rio far from its tourist districts and caused no casualties, but it represented significant defiance of the government.

Rio's state Gov. Cláudio Castro said Tuesday after a meeting with his security officials that the city was on “maximum alert” with helicopters and drones reinforcing the police presence on the streets. Police arrested 12 people in the arson attacks, but six were released due to a lack of evidence as the investigation continues, Castro said.

Authorities said the arson attacks were in retaliation for the police slaying earlier

Monday of a man identified as Matheus Silva Resende, the nephew of a criminal leader of the largest militia group in the state.

Militias emerged in the 1990s when they originally were made up mainly of former police officers, firefighters and military men who wanted to combat lawlessness in their neighborhoods. They charged residents for protection and other services, and more recently moved into drug trafficking themselves.



A burned bus sits idle in the street the day after it and other vehicles, train and bus stations were set fire in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, Tuesday, Oct. 24, 2023.

Associated Press

The militias are believed to control about 10% of Rio's metropolitan area, according to a study last year by non-profit Fogo Cruzado and a security-focused

research group at the Fluminense Federal University. These militias are distinct from drug trafficking gangs that control important areas of Rio. □

Women across Iceland, including the prime minister, go on strike for equal pay and no more violence

By EGILL BJARNASON

Associated Press

HUSAVIK, Iceland (AP) —

Schools, shops, banks and Iceland's famous swimming pools shut on Tuesday as women in the volcanic island nation including the prime minister went on strike to push for an end to unequal pay and gender-based violence.

Icelanders awoke to all-male news teams announcing shutdowns across the country, with public transport delayed, hospitals understaffed and hotel rooms uncleaned. Trade unions, the strike's main organizers, called on women and nonbinary people to refuse paid and unpaid work, including chores. About 90% of the country's workers belong to a union.

Prime Minister Katrin Jakobsdóttir said she would stay home as part of the strike "kvennaveikfall" in Icelandic and expected other women in her Cabinet would do the same.

Iceland, a rugged island of around 380,000 people just below the Arctic Circle, has been ranked as the world's



Iceland's Prime Minister Katrin Jakobsdottir speaks to the media in Berlin, Germany, Wednesday, Jan. 25, 2023.

most gender-equal country 14 years in a row by the World Economic Forum, which measures pay, education, health care and other factors.

No country has achieved full equality, and there remains a gender pay gap in Iceland. Tuesday's walk-out, running from midnight

to midnight, was billed as the biggest since Iceland's first such event on Oct. 24, 1975, when 90% of women refused to work, clean or look after children, to voice anger at discrimination in the workplace.

In 1976, Iceland passed a law guaranteeing equal rights irrespective of gen-

der. Since then there have been several partial-day strikes, most recently in 2018, with women walking off the job in the early afternoon, symbolizing the time of day when women, on average, stop earning compared to men.

Iceland's schools and the health system, which have

female-dominated workforces, said they would be heavily affected. National broadcaster RUV said it was reducing television and radio broadcasts for the day, and reported that only one bank branch in the country was open.

Gatherings on Tuesday were held across Iceland, the largest in Reykjavik, where much of the capital's center was closed to traffic and tens of thousands gathered on the grassy Arnarhóll hill for a rally.

Speakers listed grim facts about economic inequality and sexual violence in Iceland, ending by asking, "You call that equality?" The crowd thundered back: "No!"

"We have not yet reached our goals of full gender equality and we are still tackling the gender-based wage gap, which is unacceptable in 2023," Jakobsdóttir told news website mbl.is. "We are still tackling gender-based violence, which has been a priority for my government to tackle." □

Associated Press

Police say miners from a rival union are holding hundreds of colleagues underground in South Africa

By GERALD IMRAY and MOGOMOTSI MAGOME

Associated Press

JOHANNESBURG (AP) —

A group of miners from an unregistered, rival union are holding hundreds of their colleagues underground for a second day at a gold mine in South Africa over a union dispute, police and mine officials said Tuesday. Some 15 miners have been injured in scuffles, the head of the mine said.

Details were sketchy and there were conflicting statements over what happened, with the unregistered union asserting it represents the majority of employees at the mine and it wants to be formally rec-

ognized. It said the workers underground were staging a protest and there was no hostage situation.

According to Jon Hericourt,

CEO of New Kleinfontein Gold Mine company, which manages the mine, the incident erupted early Monday when miners from

the AMCU union prevented hundreds of others from leaving after their night shift ended at the Modder East mine in Springs, east of Johannesburg. Hericourt said there were 562 mineworkers underground, and the company had estimated that between 110 and 120 of them were AMCU supporters. There were all sorts of hammers, picks, shovels and other mining equipment that could be used as weapons, he said.

Police said the mineworkers had been underground since their night shift began late Sunday. Mine officials were in talks with union representatives to resolve the issue and "police are

on standby," the South African Police Services said in a statement.

Police and mine officials were not currently in contact with anyone underground despite trying to reach them via mine telephones and two-way radios, according to Hericourt. There had been some initial contact early Monday with the alleged hostage-takers. At least one man had sustained a serious head injury in scuffles, Hericourt said. The mine sent a paramedic and a security officer to bring him out on Monday after an agreement that they could, but the two were also taken hostage, he said. □



Miners gather at the top of a goldmine shaft in Springs, South Africa, Tuesday, Oct. 24, 2023.

Associated Press



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Aruba's Bocas: home to the rarest fossil reefs on the planet!

(Oranjestad)—If you've been to the northern coast of Aruba already, you've probably noticed how the ground differs entirely from the sandy beaches on the southern part of the island. These hard surfaces, with sharp bumps and holes are actually fossilized coral reefs, of which its growth and changes can be traced back to the last glacial period.

On May 30 2023, geoscientists, Dr. Patrick Boyden from the Marum research faculty at the University of Bremen, Prof. dr. Alessio Rovere from the Ca' Foscari University of Venice and Prof. dr. Gianfranco Scicchitano, from the University of Bari

Aldo Moro, presented their research on these fossilized coral reefs at the University of Aruba. Their focus for their research included studying the health and formation patterns of these coral reefs, and to investigate how these reefs have responded and can respond to fluctuating sea levels or extreme weather, like hurricanes and tsunamis.

Through underwater and land surveillance, and 3D models of the reefs, they were able to narrow down when these formations started to take place. They were also able to track the fluctuation of sea levels during the past hundred or even

thousands of years, and the effects that this fluctuation has had on the coral reefs of the windward side of Aruba.

These findings can certainly put things into perspective. The ground on which we have walked many times in the northern part of the island hold such rich history, history that dates back to a time that most of us cannot even imagine. As the scientists themselves have pointed out, these fossilized reefs on the windward side are truly an incredible and rare remnant of geological history, as they provide a clear view of how these reefs have formed.



This research is also important for the future of coral reefs on the island. By studying rising sea levels and climate impact on these coral reefs, we are able to take concrete action in protecting and preserving our coral reefs. So, if

you are ever visiting one of the bocas or driving along the northern part of the island, please be conscious to help protect our natural historical remnant. Oh, and wear (coral-friendly) sunscreen! □

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Matividiri— One of the most entertaining vacation activities is a visit to the Ostrich Farm, a popular stopover on most island jeep tours.

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It was a National Geographic moment when on cue Mr. Ostrich flapped his wings excitedly and poked around the ground with his bill, triggering Mrs. Ostrich who ran around in circles, flapped her wings and also poked around, before collapsing on the ground in a heap of feathers, allowing him to mount her, shaking, winding and spiraling his head in all direction! Mr. Ostrich concluded his unexpected performance with a loud honking, his eyes rolling, then got up in a huff to nonchalantly strut away, leaving his wife and the scrutiny of our cameras.

It was a surprise reality TV moment, and not usually included in the regular program. Feeding the Ostriches is however always on the program, and they are eternally hungry, and fun!

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(Oranjestad)—After you've visited the Alto Vista Church, the Bushiribana Gold Mill Ruins and the mini natural pool that is located right next to it, you're next up around the northern coast line must be the Natural Bridge. Once the largest natural bridge in the Caribbean, this bridge has been a tourist attraction for many years.


The bridge was formed during thousands of years, cut and crafted by the wild waves that crash into the coral stone walls of the coast. Before its collapse,



this bridge measured 30 meters in length and 7 meters in height, making it the biggest natural bridge in the Caribbean at the time. For many years, this site was also a frequently visited beach, as the bridge had a small opening through which the water would flow into the tiny beach.

Unfortunately in 2005, the bridge collapsed, and the little beach dried up. Despite this, this site remained

a tourist attraction, with many visitors walking along the coral cliffs of the bridge to see the spectacular view of the northern coastline and the Caribbean Sea. Visitors can also still visit the souvenir shop on the left of the bridge entrance.

While the natural bridge no longer is functional, there is now a smaller natural bridge very close. This bridge is often called the "Baby Bridge" or "Daughter Bridge" 

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Aruba to me



ORANJESTAD — You are back and we would like to portrait you! By inviting you to send us your favorite vacation picture while enjoying our Happy Island.

Complete the sentence: Aruba to

me is Send your picture with that text (including your name and where you are from) to: news@arubatoday.com and we will publish your vacation memory. Isn't that a special way to keep your best moments alive? Please do note: By submitting photos, text or

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Last but not least: check out our website, Instagram and Facebook page! Thank you for supporting our free newspaper, we strive to make you a happy reader every day again.

For today we received a lovely message from Ron and Maria Itri of Boston Massachusetts USA who are shown arriving in Aruba in October of 1990.

They wrote to us saying: "Photo was taken at Aruba Airport where they were greeted by Native Arubans and presented with flowers as they disembarked from the airliner which was traditional way of greeting vacationers to Aruba during the 1990's.

Ron and Maria first came to Aruba on their honeymoon in October of 1988 and loved the island so much that they returned to celebrate their wedding anniversary in October of 1989 when they purchased time sharing at the luxurious Amsterdam Manor where construction was nearly completed at the time.

We fell in love with the Island and his people and of course the weather and the beautiful architecture and location of Amsterdam Manor. And we have been returning every year to celebrate our anniversary with the exception of 2 years during the pandemic. We consider Aruba our second home and hope to come back for many more years to come if God Allows."

Thank you for sending us this wonderful message sharing what Aruba means to you with us and our readers! ☐

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Article by Etnia Nativa

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Yopo, plant of God's

Every week, Etnia Nativa writes a new episode about culture and heritage, focusing on native knowledge, transcendental wisdom, and the importance of defending Aruba's true identity. Its articles connect the reader with the mystical aspects of the island, its culture, and its traditional heritage, encouraging them to interact with the cultural environment and adopt an authentic island state of consciousness.

Today we share details of a plant scientifically called *Anadenanthera peregrina*, commonly known as Yopo, calcium tree, cohoba, parica, or cebil. Through archaeological evidence, we know that its seeds contain a substance that has been used in healing ritual ceremonies for thousands of years.

The seeds of this tree were originally collected from the wild, but increased competition between different Aboriginal tribes for its use caused the plant to be intentionally cultivated and transported to other locations, thus expanding its distribution to areas beyond its original native habitat, which were the Caribbean and other regions of South America.

Science has yet to discover all the positive effects this psychoactive substance has on the body and the mind. However Shamans have experimented with its hallucinogenic powers for millennia.

Yopo is a tree that reaches a height of approximately 20 m (66 ft) tall; its flowers are pale yellow to white spherical clusters resembling *Acacia* inflorescences; and it's a plant that somewhat resembles a plant locally known as "Garoti di San Jose", *Leucaena leuco-*

cephala; however, the seed pods are completely different.

Native American tribes of the Caribbean, Central America, and South America, including our island ancestral Caquetian's groups, used to grind the seeds of this mystical plant together with other herbs, snails, or shells, which they cooked over a sacred fire. This mixture was ground after it cooled and then stored in a container or pouch for later use. In this way, they obtained a fine powder, essentially hallucinogenic, that was inhaled or blown into the nose of the participant. This was either a remedy or a spiritual trance. Inhaling is the most effective way of administration as it allows for a larger amount of the plant powder to get in touch with the neuroreceptors, whereas a far less effective way of using yopo is by smoking the seeds of the plant.

The positive psychological and spiritual impacts are the main focus of the yopo's ceremony. The Shaman guides you so that you avoid slipping into a state of distress by diving too deep into your soul while purifying it from negative energy accumulated through time or stress. It will also bring your mind into a forgotten state in harmony with

Episode CCXXIX - 229

Mother Earth, which can make your body feel refreshed and revitalized since its medicinal features work for your body's wellness as well as your spiritual health.

Maybe you can compare the effects of the Yopo to what could resemble the effects of psychotherapy, however mystical in nature. The common experience reported by most consumers is that Yopo helped them improve through introspection and new self-knowledge. Those who practiced or have participated in such ceremonies affirm that Yopo frees your mind from the ties that the person has placed on it themselves and affirm that it intensifies emotional experiences and raises the level of their consciousness; they report major changes in their worldviews, as well as a greater focus on both themselves and their environmental surroundings, both inner and outer existence. Dispositions towards love, serenity, peace, and positive energy are also attributed to the usual experience of participating in a Yopo's ceremony.

The visions depend on the person consuming the plant, so no hallucinogenic experience is the same. The visionary experiences show that many people can be scared or frightened in the beginning and might reflect suppressed fears and phobias, which can affect the heart rate, increasing palpitations. Yopo ceremony takes you and reveals your deepest fears as well as yearnings and dreams. By seeing and confronting them, you are allowed to manipulate them and revamp them if need be.

Be informed that this is not a promotion or encouragement for you to participate in any shamanic or spiritual ceremonies. □



Through the Island Insight platform, we share the most interesting and revealing stories about Aruba as a tourist destination to discover, and if you want to explore the island's deep heritage, book a visit to Etnia Nativa, a private residence that integrates natural and reused materials and is full of art, culture, and island heritage. Each visitor is guided through an authentic encounter with the owner-builder and cultural expert. WhatsApp +297 592 2702 etniana03@gmail.com

History of fishing in Aruba

ORANJESTAD — Fishing has been a family tradition for ages in Aruba. Our ancestors used to fish for a living. Even though nowadays you don't see them often we still have some passionate fishermen on the island that go out every day in search for fish to feed their families and serve our local market. One of these fishermen is Gregory Wernet.

The so-called Continental Bank between Aruba and the opposite coast reaches a depth of about 650 feet. The sea is very rich in fish here. Since the time of the indigenous native people fish and other sea creatures such as turtles, octopus squids, conch and many type of crustaceans have formed a means of subsistence for the native Aruban inhabitants. Especially along the west coast of the island where the fishing grounds are settlements of fishermen. Until the arrival of the oil industry Aruban fishermen could supply Aruba's wants.

As a source of income, however, fishing did not amount too much. In the beginning of the 1900's approximately 160 people earn their living in this branch of this industry. Rancho, which stands for a shed, nowadays east Oranjestad, was the head quarter and remains the

fishermen's settlement. Savaneta, Noord, Santa Cruz all had their fishermen's villages. At a rough estimate there were about a hundred small fishing boats during that time.

The Arubans were mainly engaged in coastal fishing, using rowing-boats or small sailing-boats, and lines or dragnets and canisters in shallow water. When fishing with deep-sea lines just over the bottom of the sea the boat is kept in place by means of a piece of rock serving as an anchor. The two most important species of fish by far caught in this manner are the pargo or red snappers and a variety of groupers like the mero, jeanpao and the wowo di boyo.

Cruising off the coast the Aruban fisherman patiently waits for a fish willing to snap at the bait on the drag-line, in nets and traps. Veritable giants are sometimes caught. Barracudas weigh from 9 to 44 pounds and measure from 3 to almost 7 feet. The king-fish has a weight from 22 to 44 pounds; the moclat may tip the scales at 155, whilst garfish, having a length of nine feet, weigh over 132 pounds.

Most fish caught is used for their own consumption, to feed their families and some are being sold in the



market to local restaurants. Fisherman Gregory Wernet is a well-known fisherman from Santa Cruz. His father taught him fishing when he was a small child. Gregory has two sons, Jordan and Jordanny, which he taught fishing too, when they were only 3 years old and he takes them fishing with him. Fishing has been a family tradition for quite a long time and even his grandson Willvion of 7 years old is following his grandfather steps. This is the sixth generation of fishermen in their family.

They go deep sea fishing. There they catch red snapper, grouper and amberjack. They usually fish for

15 hours a day, but now due to the covid-19 measurements they go fishing from 5 in the morning until 8 o'clock at night or even sometimes from 8 at night till 5 in the morning. The day before they prepare all their fishing tools such as the Lines, lures, spears, and load their boat with fishing reels, batteries, fill the gasoline tank, lights and some food and beverages. For bait he uses sardines, squid and the small fish known in Aruba as piskechi. The have two boats they use for fishing. 'Virgen del Valle' which is parked at the pier by the Seaport and 'Padrot' which they have at home.

The fish they catch they

take home to their families and they also sell it to their clients. Gregory is proud to be a fisherman. It is a honest and humble job but with it he is able to feed his family even during hard times. It is a very dangerous job and you have to spend many hours on the sea, waiting patiently and risking your life while fighting a big fish and big waves but the adrenaline it brings with it but also just sitting there listening to the sound of the waves and enjoying the marvelous view that nature has to offer is all worth it. □

Source: Etnia Nativa



CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

- 1 Wheedle garden
- 7 Has debts work
- 11 Maine national park
- 12 Infamous emperor
- 13 Little devils
- 14 Delighted
- 15 Modernize, as a factory
- 17 Shop tools
- 20 Nest builders
- 23 Uno plus due
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- 26 Motor need
- 27 Heady brew
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- 31 Role for Keanu
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- 37 High noble
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DOWN

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- 5 Script unit
- 6 Sunrise site
- 7 Like accurate soccer shots
- 8 Like time used productively
- 9 Memo-rable time
- 10 Lawn starter
- 16 Little hooter
- 17 Vermont resort
- 18 "The Tempest" sprite
- 19 Popular
- 21 Blender speed
- 22 Razor sharpener
- 24 Joe of The Eagles
- 25 Quarter-back Manning
- 30 Cola buys
- 33 Private's boss
- 35 Over again
- 36 Volcano shape
- 37 Bad bomb
- 38 Much of N. Amer.
- 40 Ticked off
- 41 Long time
- 42 Was ahead

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Yesterday's answer

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10-25

AXYDI.BAAXR
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

10-25

CRYPTOQUOTE

R M W Y T B T A R B T B O X F O R A N
Z R O M I X Y T, M W O T R F O X X
D V T W O W C E V B T J O X C T W V.

U W V O R J I E O M T V N R J D P V.
Yesterday's Cryptoquote: LET THE STARS
SHINE UPON THE END OF YOUR ROAD. — J.R.R.
TOLKIEN, "FELLOWSHIP OF THE RING"

Gaza has oil markets on edge. That could build more urgency to shift to renewables, IEA head says



The sun begins to set behind crude oil tanks and a pumpjack, July 5, 2022, in Midland, Texas.

Associated Press

By DAVID McHUGH AP
Business Writer
FRANKFURT, Germany (AP)

— Tensions from the war in Gaza could help accelerate the move away from planet-warming fossil fuels like oil and gas and toward renewable energy, electric cars and heat pumps similar to how sharp increases in the price of oil during the 1970s unleashed efforts to conserve fuel, the head of the International Energy Agency said.

"Today we are again facing a crisis in the Middle East that could once again shock oil markets," said IEA Executive Director Fatih Birol.

That comes on top of the stress on energy markets from Russia's cutoff of natural gas to Europe over its invasion of Ukraine, he said.

"Put these two things together, and no one can convince me that oil and gas are safe and secure energy choices for countries or consumers," Birol told The Associated Press in

an interview ahead of the publication Tuesday of the IEA's annual world energy outlook, which analyzes the global picture of energy supply and demand. "This could further accelerate the energy transition around the world," with renewable sources like wind or solar offering a "long lasting solution" to energy security issues as well as climate change, he said. The attack on Israel by the militant organization Hamas and the ensuing Israel military operations have raised fears of a wider Mideast conflict. So far oil price rises have been relatively moderate. International benchmark Brent crude traded at \$90.17 per barrel Tuesday, up from around \$84 on the eve of the Hamas attack. So far the fighting has not led to a supply interruption. Fossil fuel prices are down from 2022 peaks, but "markets are tense and volatile," said the IEA in the report.

"Some of the immediate

pressures from the global energy crisis have eased, but energy markets, geopolitics, and the global economy are unsettled and the risk of further disruption is ever present," it said.

Birol pointed out that there was "a major government response" to the energy supply concerns that arose 50 years ago from the Arab oil embargo imposed during the 1973 Yom Kippur war.

It sent oil prices nearly 300% higher and led to the founding of the IEA in 1974 to help shape a collective response to the disruption. That was followed by the 1978 Iranian revolution, which added another price shock. At the time, the solutions included the rollout of nuclear power plants and the imposition of mileage standards for cars.

"This time, we have all of the available technologies," Birol said. "We have solar, wind, nuclear power, electric cars. They will extend significantly around the world and it will be an additional boost to the energy transition."

He pointed to the rapid rollout of electric cars, saying that in 2020 only one in 25 cars was electric but in 2023 it was one in five. Meanwhile the share of fossil fuels in electricity generation has fallen from 70% ten years ago to 60% today and should reach 40% by 2030, he said.

Concerted international action at the upcoming United Nations climate conference is needed to expand use of clean technologies and find new ways of financing the massive investment that is needed, especially in the developing world, the IEA said.

The report also pointed to a shifting role for China, once a leading source of increased demand for energy due to rapid industrialization and growth. □

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AbleGamers founder Mark Barlet on the importance of making gaming accessible



Martin Shane uses a Sony Access controller, left, to play a video game at Sony Interactive Entertainment headquarters Thursday, Sept. 28, 2023, in San Mateo, Calif.

Associated Press

By BARBARA ORTUTAY
AP Technology Writer

Mark Barlet founded AbleGamers in 2004. It's a non-profit that works to combat social isolation among people with disabilities using "the power of video games." Most recently, his organization worked with Sony to help create its new Access controller for the PlayStation, designed to make it easier for people with disabilities to play.

Question: When did you begin consulting for Sony on this controller?

Answer: We've had a relationship with Sony for other projects for a while. Sony has been on the forefront on the software side of creating accessible experi-

ences. But about five years ago, they reached out to us and said, we have an idea. Can we talk to you about what this idea is?

Q: And what was the idea?

A: They wanted to create a controller that really supported players with disabilities and wanted to learn from our organization on what the experience was like what were they solving? When they came to us, they were looking at what do we need to worry about this disability or this disability? And we talked to them about how disabilities, you know, show me a person with multiple sclerosis and I'll show you a person who can be, hard of hearing, I can show

someone who has a visual impairment or a motor impairment. So thinking on the label of a disability is not the approach to take. It's about the experience that players need to bridge that gap between a game and a controller that's not designed for their unique presentation in the world.

Q: How are gamers with disabilities playing without these controllers?

A: I mean, oftentimes it was cobbling things together in order to play. It was making compromises on how they could position a standard controller in a really unique way or 3D printing a solution that helped them reach this button over here or over there or gravitating away from consoles and maybe moving into PC gaming where there were many more options at the time for USB type things to plug in. It was really about

compromising and finding what best got us there. Those solutions oftentimes came with drawbacks like fatigue, discomfort and various things like that. □

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Editor

Caribbean Speed Printers N.V.
Aruba Bank N.V. Acc. #332668
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Editors

Pilar Flores
Richard Brooks
Angenette Figuereo

Sales

Mark Gomes
Sulaika Croes

Classifieds

classified@cspnv.com

Distribution and Collection

accounting@bondia.com

Social / Website

Juan Luis Pinto

Weststraat 22
T: 582-7800

E: news@arubatoday.com

W: www.arubatoday.com

@arubatoday

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Can the new film 'Uncharitable' change people's minds about overhead at nonprofits?

By **THALIA BEATY**
Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — All Hands and Hearts makes a promise in big letters on the front page of its website: "95 cents of every dollar is spent on our programs."

The Massachusetts-based disaster relief nonprofit, like so many charitable organizations have for decades, feels the pressure to operate as leanly as possible. Izzy Smith, chief information officer for All Hands and Hearts, which mobilizes volunteers to respond to natural disasters, called it an "enduring challenge for nonprofits" to explain to donors and the public about the need to invest in operations and shared services.

"Financial instability as a nonprofit actually reduces our effectiveness and efficiency," Smith said.

A new documentary "Uncharitable," from "Paris Trout" and "Losing Isaiah" director Stephen Gyllenhaal, wants to change that. It tells the story of longtime advocate Dan Pallotta, who pioneered the idea of fundraising through bike rides and road races initially to raise money for



Director Stephen Gyllenhaal, left, and Dan Pallotta attend the premiere of "Uncharitable" on Sept. 21, 2023, in New York.

Associated Press

AIDS and cancer research and treatment. Pallotta has long argued that nonprofits are unfairly pressured to cut salaries, lower operating costs and delay long term investments, which all degrade organizations' abilities to accomplish their missions.

Pallotta agrees that some philanthropic leaders, including Darren Walker, CEO of the Ford Founda-

tion, who speaks in the film, have increased the funding they allocate for general operations, but he hopes the film will reach a broader audience of smaller donors or those who are not yet convinced.

"I hope that it becomes the equivalent of 'An Inconvenient Truth' to the conversation about climate change," Pallotta said, "that it puts it on the map in

a big way so that it begins to become civically incorrect to judge charities on superficial, knee jerk reactive measures." His campaign is personal, though over the years, nonprofit leaders and workers as well as researchers have backed parts of his argument. In 2002, the for-profit fundraising company he started, Pallotta TeamWorks, folded after being sued by some

organizations that hired it to run fundraising events. Their complaint was that the company took too big a cut of the funds raised.

In 2008, Pallotta authored a book of the same name, "Uncharitable," which he also reprised as a TEDTalk that forms the backbone of the documentary.

For almost twenty years, researchers and nonprofits have warned about the negative consequences of starving nonprofits of general operating expenses, also known as overhead. In 2004, the Urban Institute along with several partners conducted a large survey of nonprofits that found investing too little in an organization's basic infrastructure diminished its effectiveness. In 2009, researchers at The Bridgespan Group found that despite these results, many nonprofit leaders still planned to cut spending on overhead.

These studies pointed out that ratings agencies like GuideStar, which was acquired by Candid, and Charity Navigator contributed to this pressure by focusing on fiscal data provided by nonprofits in their tax returns. □

Hundreds of photos from the collection of Elton John and David Furnish will go on display in London

LONDON (AP) — Photos of iconic celebrities and historic moments from the collection of Elton John and David Furnish will go on display at London's Victoria and Albert Museum next year.

The museum said Tuesday that the exhibition, titled "Fragile Beauty," will include 300 images by more than 140 photographers, including Diane Arbus, Cindy Sherman, Robert Mapplethorpe, William Eggleston, Zanele Muholi and Ai Weiwei.

The images, many of which have never been on public display, will be on show from May 18, 2024, until

Jan. 5, 2025.

The exhibition will include

portraits of stars including Marilyn Monroe, Miles Davis



Icon award winner Elton John, left, and David Furnish attend the iHeartRadio Music Awards at the Dolby Theatre, May 27, 2021, in Los Angeles.

Associated Press

and Chet Baker, and photojournalism from historic moments including the Black civil rights movement of the 1960s, 1980s AIDS activism and the Sept. 11 attack.

The works cover the period from the 1950s to the present.

The exhibition follows a show of earlier, black-and-white photographs from the collection held at London's Tate Modern in 2016. John began collecting photographs after getting sober in the 1990s, and he and his husband Furnish now have one of the largest photo collections in private hands.

Duncan Forbes, the V&A museum's head of photography, said the images in the collection ranged "from the playful and surprising to the contemplative and thoughtful."

"Fragile Beauty will be a truly epic journey across the recent history of photography, and a celebration of Sir Elton John and David Furnish's passion for the medium," he said.

The V&A has a collection of more than 800,000 photographs dating back to the birth of the medium.

John and Furnish made a major donation to the museum's photography center in 2019. □

Bob Melvin is leaving the Pods to manage the SF Giants, AP sources say

By JANIE McCAULEY
AP Baseball Writer

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) —

The San Francisco Giants have hired manager Bob Melvin away from the division rival San Diego Padres, three people with direct knowledge of the agreement said Tuesday.

The people spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because neither team had made a formal announcement of Melvin's hiring — which was likely to be official by late Tuesday night. The Athletic first reported Melvin was the Giants' choice.

The 61-year-old Melvin will be returning to the Bay Area where he grew up, cheered for and later played on the Giants and then managed the Oakland Athletics from 2011-21. An introductory news conference is planned for Wednesday.

Melvin had one year left on his contract with San Diego but leaves amid reports of friction with general manager A.J. Preller. Melvin managed the Padres for two seasons, reaching the 2022 NL Championship Se-



San Diego Padres manager Bob Melvin walks to the dugout after making a pitching change during the seventh inning of a baseball game against the San Francisco Giants in San Francisco, Monday, Sept. 25, 2023.

ries but then missing the playoffs this season with a \$258 million payroll, the third-highest in the majors. It's unclear if the Padres will receive compensation.

Melvin, a three-time Manager of the Year who won in both leagues, went 171-153 with the big-spending Padres and will enter his 21st season as a manager

next year. He has a career record of 1,517-1,425 with eight postseason appearances while guiding Arizona, Seattle, Oakland and San Diego.

A native of nearby Palo Alto, California, Melvin loves the Bay Area. He attended the University of California-Berkeley and played for his hometown

club from 1986-88.

Giants President of Baseball Operations Farhan Zaidi had hoped to find a new manager by the start of free agency to replace Gabe Kapler, fired with three days remaining in the season. Kapler was 295-248 over three-plus seasons, leading the team to a franchise-record 107 wins to

edge the 106-win Dodgers for the NL West title in 2021 before missing the playoffs the last two seasons.

With Melvin gone, Preller will be hiring his fifth manager since midway through the 2015 season. Perhaps the strongest in-house candidate is Mike Shildt, who was abruptly fired as manager in St. Louis after the 2021 season despite leading the Cardinals to a third straight playoff appearance. He was voted NL Manager of the Year in 2019.

Shildt was hired by the Padres before the 2022 season as a senior advisor to the major league staff and player development department. He filled in as third base coach early in the 2023 season after Matt Williams had colon cancer surgery. The previous year, Shildt also stepped in as third base coach, first base coach and bench coach due to various medical situations. His work in player development could be an added bonus if he takes over a big league roster led by stars Fernando Tatis Jr., Juan Soto, Manny Machado and Xander Bogaerts. □

Associated Press

NHL rescinds ban on rainbow-colored Pride tape, allowing players to use it on the ice this season

By STEPHEN WHYNO
AP Hockey Writer

NHL players will be allowed to use Pride tape this season after all with the reversal of a ban that sparked a backlash around hockey and among LGBTQ+ advocates in sports.

The league, players' union and a committee on inclusion agreed to give players the option to represent social causes with stick tape during warmups, practices and games. The move announced Tuesday rescinds a ban on rainbow-colored Pride tape for on-ice activities that was provided to teams earlier this fall as guidance for theme nights. "We are so very grateful

to everyone who believes hockey should be a safe, inclusive and welcoming space for all," the makers of Pride Tape said on social media.

"We are extremely happy that NHL players will now have the option to voluntarily represent important social causes with their stick tape throughout season."

The NHL Players' Association said it was "pleased to see the league's policy has been revised so that players are free to support causes they believe in."

Pride nights became a hot-button issue in hockey after six players chose not to participate in pregame warmups last season when

their team wore rainbow-themed jerseys. Teams this season are not allowed to wear any kind of theme jerseys, including military appreciation and Hockey Fights Cancer, for warmups. The tape ban drew criticism from players around the league, longtime executive Brian Burke and others. Philadelphia's Scott Laughton told reporters he'd probably use it anyway, and Arizona's Travis Dermott defied the ban over the weekend by putting rainbow-colored tape on his stick for a game.

Asked earlier this month about the ban, longtime Pride tape user Trevor van Riemsdyk of the Washing-

ton Capitals said he hoped it would lead players to get creative about how they support social causes.

"There's still a lot we can do

and a lot of ways we can make people feel welcome and included, so hopefully that doesn't deter guys," van Riemsdyk said. □



Zac Jones of the New York Rangers skates with a stick decorated for "Pride Night" in warm-ups prior to the game against the Washington Capitals, May 3, 2021, in New York City.

Associated Press

Things to know about the NBA season: Lots of money, lots of talent, lots of stats

By **TIM REYNOLDS**
AP Basketball Writer

NBA teams currently have about \$4.8 billion in salary committed to players for this season, meaning the average per team is around \$160 million.

Just three seasons ago, only two teams spent more than \$160 million.

The total NBA payroll for now, pending changes based on whatever happens during the season that starts on Tuesday night is up about 7% over last year, and has risen by 26% over what teams were paying just three years ago.

The teams with the six biggest payrolls going into this season, in order: Golden State, the Los Angeles Clippers, Milwaukee, Phoenix, Philadelphia and Miami.

Warriors guard Stephen Curry will have the largest salary for the seventh consecutive season, checking in at just under \$52 million. It'll be the first time an NBA salary tops \$50 million (and get used to that, because it's going to happen a lot more often in the coming years).

Next season, those expected to join Curry in the \$50 million a year club are Denver's Nikola Jokic, Philadelphia's Joel Embiid, Phoenix's Bradley Beal and the Los Angeles Lakers' LeBron James, who is on pace to become the first player to break the \$500 million mark in lifetime on-court earnings during the 2024-25 campaign (though James is also widely considered a billionaire already when factoring in his vast off-court empire).

KD RISING

Phoenix's Kevin Durant enters the season 13th on the all-time scoring list. He could make the top 10 with ease, given that his total of 26,892 points is only 54 away from No. 12 Hakeem Olajuwon, 421 back of No. 11 Elvin Hayes (27,313) and 517 away from No. 10 Moses Malone (27,409).

From there, he's 1,397 back of No. 9 Carmelo Anthony



Golden State Warriors guard Stephen Curry warms up before an NBA preseason basketball game against the San Antonio Spurs in San Francisco, Friday, Oct. 20, 2023.

Associated Press

(28,289) and 1,704 behind No. 8 Shaquille O'Neal (28,596).

Durant is the only player likely to climb into the top 10 this season, and he might be the last for a little while. Philadelphia's James Harden and the Los Angeles Clippers' Russell Westbrook are about 3,000 points shy of that club as of now. Golden State's Stephen Curry could get into the top 10 in about three seasons. Portland's Damian Lillard will likely need at least five more seasons if he's getting to the top 10, and Milwaukee's Giannis Antetokounmpo is probably at least six seasons away from having a chance.

TONS OF TALENT

There are 63 players on season-opening rosters who have been in at least one All-Star Game.

There are 41 players on season-opening rosters who have been picked to at least one All-NBA team.

There were 25 instances of a player scoring at least 50 points in a game during the 2022-23 regular season. The NBA hadn't seen that many 50-point games since 1962-63, when there were 34 — four by Elgin Baylor, the other 30 by Wilt Chamber-

lain.

There are 37 players in the league right now with at least one 50-point game on their resume.

ROOKIE WATCH

There have been 235 rookies in NBA history to score at least 1,000 points in their first season — never more than eight doing it in any one season. There were eight 1,000-point rookies in 1970-71, 1981-82 and 1992-93.

With San Antonio's Victor Wembanyama, Oklahoma City's Chet Holmgren (who counts as a rookie since he missed all of last year), Portland's Scoot Henderson and Charlotte's Brandon Miller likely to lead the way, it's not outside the realm that there could be more than eight rookies to reach that scoring milestone this season.

Rookies combined to average 7.4 points per game last season. That was the highest overall rookie scoring average since 2009-10, when first-year players averaged 7.6 points per game.

BUSY DAYS

Expect a lot to be decided in the final eight days of the regular season — simply because there's going to be a whole lot of games in that

span.

There are 11 dates this season (as of now, some December games aren't scheduled yet because of the in-season tournament) with at least 13 games on the schedule and four of those slates come in the season's final eight days.

There are 13 games on April 7, 14 on April 9, and 15 on both April 12 and April 14 that one being the last day of the regular season.

November has a pair of 14-game dates: the 8th and the 22nd. Each either precedes or follows a day off, since there are no games in the NBA on Nov. 7 (Election Day) or Nov. 23 (Thanksgiving).

There are eight dates with just two games, the first of those being Tuesday's opening-night slate.

A pair of Sundays — Dec. 3 and Dec. 10 — are also expected to be off days as well, given how the new in-season tournament is being scheduled. (There is a slight chance of a game on at least one of those days.) Other off days besides Election Day and Thanksgiving: Dec. 24 for Christmas Eve, April 8 for the NCAA men's Division I basketball championship game and April

13, which the next-to-last day of the regular season.

DON'T BE LATE

If the game starts at 7:30, you might want to be watching at 7:30. If this season is like last season, the winner might be pretty clear not long after tip-off. Teams with leads after one quarter went on to win 68.1% of the time during the 2022-23 regular season. That's the best success rate since after-one-quarter leaders won at a 68.8% clip in 2013-14.

The teams with the best records when leading after one quarter during this past regular season: probably no surprise that it was Boston (39-8, .830), Milwaukee (42-9, .824), Denver (37-9, .804) and Sacramento 28-8 (.778).

Only one team had a losing record when leading after the first 12 minutes: Detroit went 7-12 (.368) in those situations.

Fans in Miami are notorious for not being in their seats at tip-off and settling into their chairs later in games, so maybe that explains this stat: The Heat had a league-best 15 wins last season when trailing after three quarters and five more (another league high) in the play-in tournament and postseason.

PLAYER MILESTONES

Russell Westbrook is two triple-doubles away from 200 in his regular-season career.

Damian Lillard is 624 points shy of 20,000, and if he plays most of the year he should climb two spots to No. 4 on the all-time 3-pointers made list. He's 63 back of No. 5 Kyle Korver and 173 back of No. 4 Reggie Miller.

LeBron James has appeared in 1,421 regular-season games. That's ninth-most in NBA history, three shy of No. 8 Kevin Willis, 41 shy of No. 7 Kevin Garnett and 55 shy of No. 6 Karl Malone. James should also pass Malone for No. 2 in minutes played; he's at 54,094, while Malone played 54,852. □